

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 12-15 have been canceled without prejudice to applicant's right to file one or more continuing applications directed to the subject matter therein. The cancellation of these claims in no way represents an acquiescence by applicant to the rejections against these claims, but is made to advance prosecution of the instant case. Claims 8-11 have been amended to be in independent form, and each of claims 8-11 contain all of the limitations of claim 6.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The color drawings were objected to as not complying with 37 CFR 1.84(b)(2). When the application is determined to be otherwise in condition for allowance, applicant will petition to accept the drawings and amend the specification as indicated.

III. Claim Rejections

Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the cancellation of claims 5-15, applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are rendered moot.

Claims 1-5, 6, 7, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In view of the cancellation of claims 1-5, 6, 7, and 12-14, applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are rendered moot.

IV. Conclusion

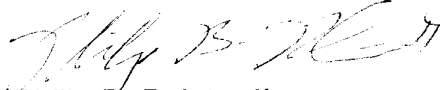
In the Office Action mailed 1 August 2006, the Examiner indicated that claims 8-11 would be allowable if re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base (claim 6) claim. Applicants have amended claims 8-11 in independent form, and have included all of the limitations of claim 6. Therefore, applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and

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respectfully request favorable action on the currently amended claims. Upon a finding of allowability, applicants will petition to have the drawings accepted.

If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,



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